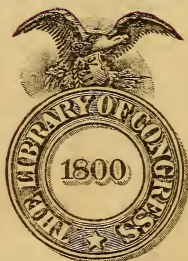


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# BEER AS A BEVERAGE.

AN ADDRESS ✓

OF

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*George Washington*  
REV. G. W. HUGHEY, A.M.,

*Pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, St. Louis, Mo.*

JUL 25 1879  
U.S. PATENT OFFICE

DELIVERED ON SABBATH EVENING, JUNE 8, 1879, IN REPLY  
TO THE ANNUAL ADDRESS OF H. RUETER, PRESIDENT  
OF THE 19th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
BEER-BREWERS' CONGRESS.

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## BEER A DANGEROUS BEVERAGE.

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THE meeting of the nineteenth annual Convention of the "United States Brewers' Association" in our city the past week, was an event in which all, without reference to their views on the question of temperance, must have been deeply interested. This Association, with a capital, as stated by our Mayor in his address of welcome, of \$300,000,000 invested in its work, and paying an annual revenue of \$10,000,000 to the Government, is a great power, socially, morally, and politically. The question is, Is it a power for good, or is it a power for evil? Such money-power, into whichever scale it is cast, must exert an incalculable influence upon society.

Our Mayor, from his high position as the Chief Magistrate of our city, in his address of welcome, threw the whole weight of his personal and official influence on the side of beer, declaring that it is "one of the cheapest and most wholesome beverages known to the use of man." He says also, "The breweries furnish a refreshing stimulant at a price so cheap, that it is within the reach of all classes, and this fact enables them *to exercise a beneficial influence on popular health and habits.*" Such a declaration as this could be honestly made only on the ground of the profoundest ignorance

on the part of the man who made it, both as to the physical effects of beer upon those who use it, and the social effects it has upon the community which patronize it. The public reception and welcome given to the Association, and its treatment by the press of the city, show that the sentiments expressed by the Mayor in his address of welcome are the prevailing sentiments of the city, and that the Chief Magistrate but gave voice to the sentiments of his constituents. However true this may be, it is certain that there is a very respectable minority of the constituents of our honorable Mayor who do not share his sentiments, and this minority constitutes a very large per cent. of the intelligence and moral worth of the city, and it represents no inconsiderable portion of its material wealth.

The feature of the discussion of

#### THE BEER QUESTION

by the members of the Convention which struck me most forcibly was the fact that the Mayor, the President of the Association, and all the speakers, as far as I have noticed, predicated their defense of the manufacture and sale of beer upon the ground or grounds of its beneficial effects, physically, morally, and socially. The whole object of these advocates of Gambrinus seemed to be to prove that he is indeed a hero, working not for paltry gold or worldly honor, but for the physical, moral, and social elevation of the human race—that this vast capital of \$300,000,000 is invested in a grand



missionary enterprise, and those who are engaged in the manufacture and sale of lager beer are the most perfect specimens of disinterested benevolence the world has ever seen, working only for the improvement and elevation of the race; while those who, without the hope of gain or reward, are laboring to save mankind from the terrible curse of intemperance by the only sure method—that of total abstinence—are a set of craven hypocrites, who are advocating their fanatical views only for “filthy lucre,” or for the gratification of the satanic desire to injure mankind. Now, ladies and gentlemen, from what we know of human nature and its temptations to hypocrisy, which do you think is most likely to be hypocritical, those who are making millions out of their traffic, and who are therefore most intensely interested in finding a justification for it, or those who are making nothing, but who are laying out thousands of money, and the best labor of their lives, and suffering all the indignities that can be heaped upon them by this gigantic money-power, and who are laboring only to save men from the power of this terrible destroyer, that spares neither age nor sex?

But such as is this exhibition of shameless hypocrisy, which would attempt to justify the manufacture and sale of lager beer on the ground that it is beneficial, physically, morally, and socially, to its consumers, it is a most hopeful sign, as it recognizes the fact that even the men who are engaged in the very work of destroying their fellows, are compelled to seek a justification of their

nefarious business on moral and humanitarian grounds. This is an indication of a healthy state of public sentiment, which gives hope in this contest against this gigantic power for evil.

Let us examine the points of defense set up by the President of the Association in his address:

1. He claims that lager beer is health-giving—that it is a physical blessing to those who use it. He says: “Taken altogether, beer, as a beverage, can not be excelled, as it possesses a number of qualities which, jointly, have a most salutary effect upon the human organism.”

Now, we ask, What are the qualities possessed by beer, which thus act beneficially upon the system? And how do they act?

#### AN ANALYSIS

of five different samples of lager beer, manufactured by different brewers, by Professor Chandler, of the School of Mines, of Columbia College, recently revealed the fact that these samples contained from 91.59 to 87.16 parts of water, from 4.99 to 7.25 parts of alcohol, and from 3 to 5.40 parts of extractive matter of malt and hops. The average was: water, 89.82; alcohol, 5.86; extractive matter of malt and hops, 4.32. Here we have lager beer composed of water, nearly ninety per cent.; of alcohol, nearly six per cent.; and of extractive matter of malt and hops, not quite four and one-third per cent.

Now, I ask, in which of these component parts of lager beer do we find the “qualities which,

jointly, have most salutary effect upon the human organism?" I do not think the advocates of lager will tell us that these "qualities," so "beneficial" to "the human organism," are to be found in the ninety per cent. of water which the beer contains, for they do not seem to be very partial to water; they want to get along with as little of it as possible! Yet the only beneficial properties beer contains are in the ninety per cent. of water the beer-drinker is compelled to drink, much against his will, in order that he may get his six per cent. of alcohol and his four per cent. of malt and hop extract!

The alcohol contains nothing that can build up the system or benefit it. That there is no nutritive principle in alcohol is now a demonstrated fact of science, and our advocates of lager beer admit that the less they have of alcohol in their beer the healthier it is. Now, you see, they are compelled to find all the beneficial principles in lager beer in the four per cent. of malt and hop extracts it contains. Of this four per cent. of extractive matter two-thirds of it is an indigestible gum, which does not undergo any change in passing through the body, and the other one and a third per cent. is composed of sugar, vinegar, cripuline, the bitter principle of hops, and carbonic acid gas. Now, here we have in lager beer, by the most perfect system of scientific analysis, made by a most competent chemist, and made at the request of Dr. Elisha Harris, of the Board of Health of New York City, for the purpose of ascertaining the in-

toxicating properties and hygienic qualities of lager beer; ninety per cent. of water, six per cent. of alcohol, two and two-thirds per cent. of indigestible gum, and one and one-third per cent. of other ingredients, among which, the very small amount of sugar is the only valuable ingredient. I suppose the testimony of Baron Liebig, the great German chemist, will have weight with our beer-drinking friends, as he was no temperance fanatic, but simply a scientific inquirer, and the first chemist of Continental Europe of this age. I hold in my hand his great work on chemistry, and read from his "Familiar Letter on Chemistry," Letter vi.: "Beer, wine, spirits, etc., furnish no element capable of entering into the composition of blood, muscular fiber, or any part which is the seat of the vital principle." This is a strong, concise, and clear statement. Now, either the greatest German chemist of this or any other century is mistaken, or the President of the Brewers' Association is mistaken in regard to the beneficial effects of lager beer. This is important testimony, and testimony, too, that we ought to pay particular attention to. The idea has prevailed, and still does prevail, that there is nutrition in lager beer—that it is food. Now,

DR. BARON VON LIEBIG,

the greatest chemist of the age, declares that this is a mistake, and that there is nothing in "beer, wine, spirits," etc., which can enter into "the composition of blood, muscular fiber, or any part which



is the seat of the vital principle." The idea that it builds up the system is a false idea, at war with every fact of science. The idea that beer is a food, that it is nutritious, must be abandoned. Chemical analysis has demonstrated its utter falsehood, by revealing the fact that there is no nutritive principle in it at all.

But the question is asked, "Is not lager beer good for sick people, or those who have weak digestive powers? Does it not stimulate the stomach and promote digestion?" I will let the great Dr. Liebig answer this question also. I read from his *Animal Chemistry*, p. 39: "In the action of the gastric juice on the food, no other element takes a share, except the oxygen of the atmosphere and the elements of water." If lager beer, then, promotes digestion, it is the ninety per cent. of water in it that does the work, and not the six per cent. of alcohol, nor the two and two-thirds per cent. of gum, nor the one and one-third per cent. of other ingredients; and I would much prefer pure water without the poisonous ingredients of lager mixed with it. Again, says Baron Liebig, on page 40: "All substances which can arrest the phenomena of fermentation and putrefaction in liquids, also arrests digestion when taken into the stomach." Now, we know that there is nothing that will do this equal to alcohol, therefore the alcohol in lager, when taken into the stomach, must of necessity interfere with the process of digestion. Lager beer, according to its strength, contains from five to eight per cent. of alcohol. Ale contains the

same. Wine contains, according to its strength, from ten to twenty per cent. of alcohol, while whisky contains from thirty to sixty per cent. Now, actual experiment has demonstrated that finely-minced beef put in gastric juice mixed with water, will be perfectly digested in ten hours, while the same mixed with gastric juice and alcohol in ten hours is unchanged, and the pepsin, which is the digestive ferment of the gastric juice, is precipitated, and digestion is impossible. The same put in gastric juice and wine, at the end of six hours is partly loosened, but at the end of ten hours is undigested, and the pepsin is precipitated and digestion impossible. We see from these facts, demonstrated by actual experiments, that the amount of alcohol in lager beer is sufficient to materially interfere with the process of digestion, and this very interference calls for a larger amount of beer, and thus the difficulty increases, without the unfortunate victim knowing what is really the cause of his trouble.

But, perhaps the objector may say : " Beer must be healthy, for men who use it get fat." It is true, beer makes men fat, but it does it not by any healthy process, but the

#### ALCOHOL

it contains enters the blood and prevents the coagulation of the fibrine of the blood, and that which ought to make muscle, bone, and sinew, is deposited in the form of fat, which is only a draft on the vitality of the drinker, until he becomes so

fat "his eyes" not only "stand out with fatness," but he dies of fatness. Dr. Wm. B. Carpenter, one of the greatest living physiologists, in his treatise on "Alcohol, Its Use and Abuse in Sickness and Health," brings out these facts fully.

But, says the objector: "There is not enough alcohol in lager beer to hurt the drinker." I have shown that, by actual analysis, lager beer contains from five to eight per cent. of alcohol. Now, those who drink freely will get from one to three glasses of pure alcohol a day; and one glass of pure alcohol a day is enough to do terrible mischief to the physical and mental man. Let no beer-drinker be deceived. Under the most favorable circumstances, for every twenty glasses of lager he takes, he gets one glass of pure alcohol, while those who use the stronger beer get one glass of pure alcohol for every thirteen glasses of beer!" But President Rueter takes the ground that beer is a temperance drink. He says: "It will be found that every brewery and every beer saloon helps to loosen the grasp which alcohol has on a country where distilled liquors are habitually drank, and that the people will be weaned from strong drink in proportion as the use of beer extends. Good, wholesome beer, at moderate cost, is the best panacea yet discovered for intemperance as a national vice."

One of the mottoes adorning the hall where the Association met read thus: "Lager beer, the beverage of our country—a true apostle of temperance!!" Now, we ask, is this true? Common

sense, common observation, and the facts of history unite in their testimony, proving that the very reverse is true. Common sense, confirmed by universal observation, tells us that the use of milder stimulants always leads to the use of stronger ones. In ordinary health no one needs stimulants of any kind, and their use creates a diseased condition of the system, which demands a larger amount, or a stronger kind of stimulant. This is a fact of universal experience and observation. No one knows this fact better than those engaged in the beer traffic. The young man who begins with one glass of beer a day, will soon want two, and then three, and then four, and then five, until he can not get beer enough to stimulate him, and then he must have something stronger. The same is true in regard to the use of wine. The milder kinds lead to the use of the stronger, and those to the use of brandy and whisky; and this has ever been the case, and must ever be the case. Either the quantity must be increased, or the quality must be made stronger. This is a law, a demand of the

#### USE OF STIMULANTS,

and that which makes the use of alcoholic stimulants, even of the mildest form, so terribly dangerous. Once begun, the demand is ever increasing, both in strength and quantity. This fact is so universal and so palpable, that I wonder that the advocates of the substitution of wine and beer for the stronger forms of alcoholic stimulants do not feel



their cheeks blush with the tinge of conscious hypocrisy every time they utter such sophistry. The whole history of the use of alcoholic stimulants, from the day that wine was first manufactured down to this very evening, establishes the same fact. Before the process of distillation was invented, or discovered, the nations who manufactured wine became involved fearfully in the vice and crime of drunkenness, and the constant study of the wine-drinkers was to find out how to make their wines more stimulating. This they did, as our modern liquor manufacturers and dealers do, by drugging it to increase its intoxicating power. From the days of the Jewish kings down to the present time, in every wine-producing country on the face of the earth, this has been the case, and it is so not by accident, but by a law inexorable, which makes an ever-increasing demand for stronger stimulants to take the place of weaker ones, that have lost their power to satisfy the craving demand of the depraved appetite. Take California as an illustration. The increase of her consumption of stronger stimulants keeps pace with her manufacture and consumption of her native wines. So it is all over the United States. The increase of the consumption of lager beer leads directly, and by an inexorable law of necessity, to an increased consumption of distilled liquors. Take the statistics of the years 1871 and 1872 as an illustration of this fact. I take these two years because I have not the statistics of other years at hand. In 1871 there were consumed in the United States

of distilled spirits 75,582,286 gallons, and of fermented liquors 213,725,160 gallons. In the year 1872 there were consumed 83,212,500 gallons of distilled liquors, and 240,222,090 gallons of brewed or fermented liquors. Here we have an increase in one year of 26,496,930 gallons of fermented or brewed liquors, and an increase of 7,630,214 gallons of distilled liquors. This is an increase of a little over nine per cent. in the consumption of brewed or fermented liquors, and a little over eleven per cent. in the consumption of distilled liquors. This is an increase of two per cent. in the consumption of distilled liquors over that of brewed or fermented liquors. This is the way "lager beer" brewers "are apostles of temperance!" This is the way it cures the vice of national intemperance! Do we need any further demonstration on this point? Here, we see, that every nine per cent. increase we have in the consumption of lager beer gives us eleven per cent. increase in the consumption of whisky.

How long would it take to cure the vice of national intemperance by this method? Will President Rueter or Mayor Overstolz tell us? It is not in the interest of temperance and sobriety that the Brewers' Association are working; but in the interest of

#### DISSIPATION AND DRUNKENNESS.

Their business increases as the drinking habits of the people increase, and the profits on their \$300,000,000 depend upon the increase of intemperance.

Under such circumstances, for the representatives of the Brewers' Association to assume the rôle of temperance reformers, is an exhibition of brazen hypocrisy, sufficient to make Satan hide his face in shame.

But President Rueter remarks again: "As the use of alcoholic stimulants, as a social custom, is, however, liable to lead to excess, and as habitual excess in their use does great mischief to society, the sale and consumption should be so controlled and directed as to lessen the danger of abuse as much as possible. This is what legislation should try to do, and all that it can hope to accomplish. To an unprejudiced mind, the substitution of a mild beverage for a strong one in public favor must appear as a simple and natural way to reach the object."

This is a remarkable paragraph, and we wish to call particular attention to it. 1. If the Brewers' Association could substitute a mild beverage for a strong one, so far they would doubtless accomplish a good work. But the fact, as we have just seen, is—they only succeed in "substituting a strong beverage for a mild one." Do we see those who have become addicted to whisky substitute beer in its place? Now, if the Brewers' Association could do this, and then only permit the drinking classes, by such restraints as Mr. Rueter admits we have a right to adopt to protect society, to drink what would be healthy for them and good for the community, they should certainly have our co-operation and help. But instead of this, they take the

sober young men of the community and initiate them into the drinking habit, and lead them on to stronger drinks. It is just here that the greatest enormity of the beer traffic appears. It takes the uninitiated and starts them on the way to ruin, and then, when their habit of beer-drinking is confirmed, they substitute the stronger for the weaker beverage.

2. But Mr. Rueter here admits that "the use of alcoholic stimulants is liable to lead to excess," and, of course, beer is included in alcoholic stimulants; and that "the habitual excess in their use does great mischief to individuals and to society," and that, therefore, "the sale and consumption should be so controlled and directed as to lessen the danger of abuse as much as possible." Now, we have here a full admission of the legal right to control the sale of alcoholic stimulants, and as beer is an alcoholic stimulant, we have the right to control it, "so as to lessen the danger to society as much as possible." If Mr. Rueter and the Association will stick to this position, we will be able to harmonize upon it without difficulty. The right to control in the interest of society carries along with it the

#### RIGHT TO PROHIBIT,

if the well-being of society demands it. Now, let the advocates of beer stand upon this platform, and we will soon convince them that the only way to protect society from the evils arising from the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants, is to prohibit



the traffic altogether. Now, we ask, will the Association of Brewers unite with the friends of temperance in favor of a law prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and use as a beverage of all distilled liquors? If they are in earnest, and honest in their utterances in their last annual Convention, they most certainly will, for they, in the fullest and most unequivocal manner, committed themselves to the theory of legal prohibition, as applied to distilled liquors; but this is the last thing they contemplated doing. They are as fierce in their denunciations of prohibition as they are free in their praises of the beverage of their own manufacture. Their feeble and foolish assault on the Maine Law shows their feeling on this question. While admitting that the Maine Law has completely broken up the liquor trade in Maine, Mr. Rueter attempted to prove, by Governor Garcelon, a strong and pronounced advocate of the repeal of the law, and who was not elected by the people of Maine at all, and who does not represent their sentiment, that greater evils have followed in the increase of the use of opium, tobacco, chloroform, etc., etc., than the use of whisky. Now, neither Governor Garcelon nor Mr. Rueter expected men of sense to accept such twaddle as argument. Every sensible person knows that with the reduction of the use of alcoholic stimulants you reduce the use of all other kinds of stimulants; and this silly statement of Governor Garcelon can only bring the cause of alcoholic stimulants into deeper contempt in all right-thinking minds.

Mr. Rueter claims that the manufacture and sale of lager beer is a legitimate industry, that ought to receive the special protection of the Government, as it furnishes employment for thousands of men, and pays \$10,000,000 of revenue to the Government. Now, there is but one way any business or trade can justify itself, and that is by giving to the consumer an equivalent for his money. The amount of capital invested, the number of men employed, and the amount of revenue paid to the Government can not justify any business or trade. The only law that can justify any business or trade is the law of equivalent. A business that does not give to the consumer an equivalent for his money is not a legitimate business. Tried by this rule, the beer business is not a legitimate business, for it gives no equivalent to its consumer for his money. In this respect it is worse than robbery, for it not only takes its victim's money without giving any equivalent in return, but it fixes in him an appetite that thirsts and burns for gratification until it consumes him, destroys his body, ruins his reputation, beggars his family, destroys his mind, and ruins his soul. All this it does as its legitimate and necessary work. Now, a business that produces such results can not be justified upon any legitimate principles of business. The more a man patronizes it the worse off he is in pocket, health, and character. It takes his very life-blood, and gives nothing in return but broken health, poverty, and misery ; yet it puts on a brazen face, and demands special protection at the hands of the law, while it is en-

gaged in the nefarious business of ruining its victims, and spreading wretchedness and beggary among their families. But we have shown, and that conclusively, that the use of beer is but the initiating step in the cause of continued intemperance; that it takes the young man from his home and from the heart of his mother, and from the pure associations of his sisters, and introduces him into the society of the beer-drinker, and makes him the companion of the depraved and the vicious. Surrounded by these depraved associations, the alcoholic stimulants he imbibes in the shape of beer and other alcoholics, his moral sense becomes depraved, and his vilest passions become enraged and uncontrollable, and he is hurried along by the maddening effects of alcohol to destruction. Still the Brewers' Association, backed by a capital of \$300,000,000, and an incalculable political influence and power, demands the right to take your sons and mine from our hearth-stones and debauch them, and make criminals of them, and run the plow-share of destruction through our family circles, and send our gray hairs to the grave in sorrow, that they may fatten and prosper upon our broken hearts and ruined households! Then they have the effrontery to flaunt their banners in our faces and proclaim lager beer as the great civilizer of mankind! I do not wish to come in contact with the civilizing influence of lager, when it has been imbibed in sufficient quantities to produce its peculiar effervescing influence on the minds of those who are under its civilizing influence!

Every lager beer saloon that is opened in any community, is detrimental to that community in every conceivable way. It makes no community, no individual, better; but it makes every community and every individual who patronizes it worse. It sinks the civilization into a lower scale, and turns those who imbibe it freely, for the time being, into savages, and prepares them for every lawless excess while under its maddening influence. Tried by every law of trade, and by every moral law, and every just social law, the beer traffic is proved guilty of being the enemy of the human race, as certainly and surely as is the whisky traffic, and no money-power nor political influence can uphold forever such a system of wrong, which makes war upon every interest dear to humanity. The time of the triumph of the right is hastening, and strong and gigantic as the beer-power is now, the day is coming when right shall triumph over might, and when the oppressed victims of the beer-power shall go free; and the song of liberty shall go up from redeemed humanity to Him who alone has the power to break every chain, and let the oppressed go free. May God hasten it in His time!

The oppressive spirit of the beer-power was fully manifested in the treatment given to Mr. Bemis, editor of the *Prohibitionist*. Such conduct is a disgrace to the civilization of this age and country, and those who resort to such methods of carrying their measures will yet find that principles can not be crushed by offering indignities to those who



advocate them, and that such violence must return upon the heads of those who practice it, and only hastens the overthrow of the cause which they represent. We can afford to stand by our principles, for, thank God, we have principles to stand by—principles as firm as the eternal pillars of truth, and which are destined to stand when empires founded in sin, and supported by the revenues of iniquity, shall perish. Let us, as a people, be wise enough to put iniquity away from our hearts, and build our social and political fabric upon the eternal rock of truth and justice, and then the billows of destruction will dash in vain upon our foundation. But if we build in unrighteousness, it matters not how strong the superstructure may appear, nor what money-power there may be back of us, God will send the rain of His wrath upon it, and our house shall fall because it is founded on the sand, and built in unrighteousness.

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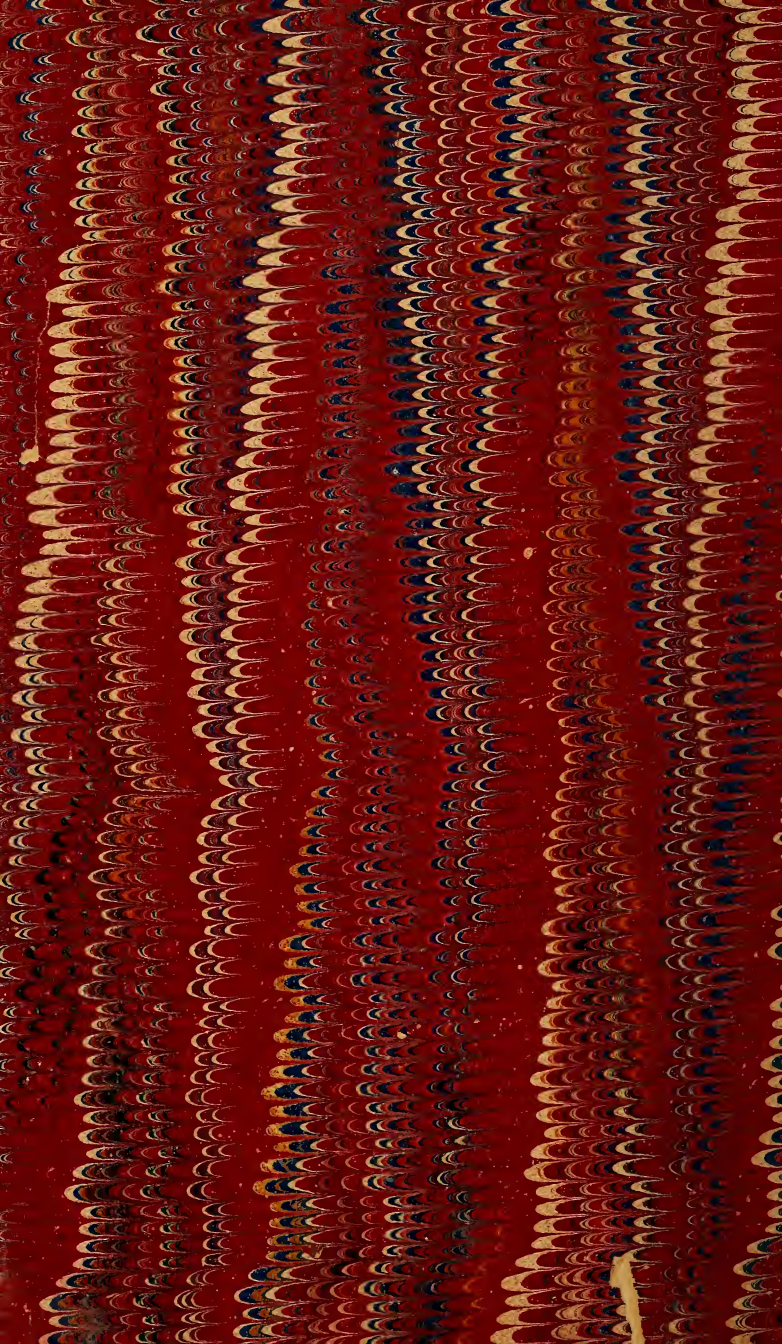
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